



NEWSLETTER

Volume 35 | Issue 24
June 30, 2020

Quote: “No matter how big a nation is, it is no stronger than its weakest people, and as long as you keep a person down, some part of you has to be down there to hold him down, so it means you cannot soar as you might otherwise.”

By: Marian Anderson

***THE CTRA BOARD WILL MEET AGAIN, AFTER SUMMER, ON
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 AT 1:00 P.M.
(THE LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER.)***

**ALL FUTURE CTRA LUNCHEONS ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE.**

Golf Activities

Call Richard Wiley at 520-603-9712 to play golf. Tee times are scheduled for every Tuesday, in the early A.M. Golfers rotate between the five Public Courses, Randolph North, (now called Randolph Dell Ulrich), El Rio, Fred Eke, and Silverbell Golf Courses.

During this COVID-19 Virus, City Courses are opened. However, the City of Tucson, is asking all golfers to practice safe-distancing. City Golf Staff are

going to be staying a safe distance away from players to maintain their health and golfers health.

The six (6) feet requirement for distancing between each player is still to be adhered to on the course. One person per cart is what is being mandated by the course staff. Keeping the distance between each player is still very important. Also face masks are encouraged to be worn, while playing, however, masks are not mandated. Please be smart and do not take chances.

Membership Report

Greetings to all current CTRA Members and City Retirees:

CTRA is pleased to report that between January and April of 2020, nineteen retirees have become CTRA Members. In 2019, CTRA greeted 31 new members to the Association! Currently, we have **816** active/life members.

CTRA holds many social activities throughout the year, including monthly membership luncheons, a BBQ, Thanksgiving Potluck and an annual Holiday Luncheon/Board Election. We also send out a newsletter, by email, to interested members, as well as post each newsletter on the City's retiree website.

DURING THE ONGOING COVID19 OUTBREAK, CTRA HAS STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE "STAY HOME, STAY HEALTHY, STAY CONNECTED" CAMPAIGN TO KEEP OUR FAMILIES, FRIENDS AND CTRA MEMBERS SAFE BY SUSPENDING ALL CTRA ACTIVITIES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

As CTRA continues to grow, we hope you will become a new member by completing the membership application included in this newsletter. If you are interested in learning more about CTRA or have questions, we welcome you to contact any Board Member listed in this newsletter.

AS ARE ALL ARIZONA RESIDENTS, CTRA IS LOOKING FORWARD TO RETURNING STRONGER

CTRA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
RENEWAL OR CHANGE FORM

☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal ☐ Changes

DATE _____

NAME(s) _____

BIRTHDATE _____ COT EMP # _____ OR _____

LAST 4 DIGITS OF SSN: _____
(For Retirement Office Use Only)

Complete the following ONLY for NEW Membership OR Change:

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP _____ TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

SPOUSE'S NAME _____

RETIREMENT DATE/DEPT _____

(COMPLETE FOLLOWING ONLY FOR PAYROLL DEDUCTION)

☐ I authorize deduction of \$.50 per month from pension check

SIGNATURE _____
(Required for Payroll Deduction)

If you would rather send a check for your dues, please mark the box below. **Dues become due on January 1st each year.**

☐ Enclosed is \$6.00 for Annual Dues
(Make check payable to CTRA)

MAIL TO: **Kris Liberty**
2951 W. Alaska St.
Tucson, Az 85746

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TSRS REPORT

Not much is happening with the retirement fund, due to there being no in-person meetings due to the Coronavirus restrictions. City Hall has been and still remains closed to the public, so no board meetings have been possible there. The TSRS Board has been experimenting with video conferencing instead, and it is likely that this will be the preferred way to meet for at least the next month or more.

Last year the Board approved a process for ensuring that new retirees' applications would be approved by the Board Chairperson and the City's Pension and Benefits Administrator. The process was intended to be used during the summer months, when no meetings were scheduled. It's now been in use for the COVID-19 disruption period. This means that there will be no delays in accepting, processing, and approving a new retiree's pension application.

The TSRS Board did meet once under exceptional circumstances. At that meeting, it reviewed and approved, the medical emergency pension application, for a terminally-ill employee. Doing so meant that his family, did not incur a disruption, in his benefits. Normally, the application process would have led, to a two or three-week delay, from the employee's last date of service. In this particular case, the doctors' prognosis was so pessimistic, that the Board accepted his family's request, for an expedited review.

In other news: I've previously mentioned the disruptions in the financial markets and their effects on the pension fund's assets. They went down as expected and now they're going up as the markets begin their recovery. Since our portfolio is distributed within a percentage or so of our long-term goals, the road to follow now, is down one of steady nerves and patience.

At the moment, the real activity is over on the deferred compensation, side of the house. That's an entirely different organization and it has its own Board of Directors which controls that fund's strategy and tactics. FYI, as a Deferred Comp Member myself, I did get an email that said that the transfer of accounts has been completed from ICMA-RC to EMPOWER Investments. If you're also a member you should be receiving more specific details from the City's Pension and Benefits Office. If you have a deferred comp account and still need more information, you could check with them or with Mr. John O'hare. John is the retiree's representative on the Deferred Compensation Plan's Board of Directors, and knows all about what's going on over there. I've been told that there also may be more details regarding deferred comp that come from CTRA. Look for them elsewhere in this newsletter.

That's all for now.

Stay Safe, Jim Wysocki, TSRS Trustee

UPDATE: Transition to EMPOWER Retirement

Please check your account balances with EMPOWER Retirement. Some Deferred Compensation Members participated in the Vantagepoint Plus Fund with ICMA-RC. If you did, your account balances, were not moved from ICMA-RC to EMPOWER

Retirement. This particular fund has a contractual requirement, called a put, that allows ICMA to hold on to those funds for up to twelve (12) months, from the date of (January 2020) transitioning notice to ICMA, from the City of Tucson.

(I would suggest checking with ICMA-RC to make sure your account balances are correct, if you participated in Vantagepoint Plus Fund.)

Per the our Pension Administrator, “This information was included in the FAQ (page 4) document, the transition bulletin (page 4) and the new fund lineup document (page 3) that went out to all active and retired participants. Additionally, we mentioned this during our in person seminars in early March and Jeff (an EMPOWER Retirement Employee) went through this again during both of his virtual seminars he conducted in May.”

“I should note that the funds in Vantagepoint Plus Fund must be transferred by January 2021, if not sooner, when you call ICMA-RC Representatives.”

If your funds were not in the Vantagepoint Plus Fund, and were not transferred to EMPOWER Retirement, please contact our Pension Administrator, Mr. Art Cuaron, at 520-791-4598.

Hopefully, everything went smoothly during this transition of deferred compensation for employees and retirees.

Mary G. Parker, CTRA President

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IN MEMORIAM

Richard A. Oldenburg name was misspelled last month.

He died 03/12/2020.

MAY OUR PAST COLLEAGUES REST IN PEACE! OUR CONDOLENCES TO THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS.

Unfortunately, we do not have the latest City of Tucson Retirees Listing or Death Listing of City Staff at this time.

FOR RETIREES, WHO DID NOT RECEIVE THE MAY 31, 2020 CTRA NEWSLETTER, VIA EMAIL. YOU MAY GO TO CITY OF TUCSON RETIREES WEBSITE AND VIEW THE NEWSLETTER UNDER MAY 2020. (THERE IS A LISTING OF SEVERAL RETIREES AND DEATHS OF RETIREES, INCLUDED IN THAT NEWSLETTER.)

FREE WILL PREPARATION

THE FOLOWING IS COPIED FROM OPEN ENROLLMENT BROCHURE (JUNE 1-15, 2020)

Keeping beneficiary designations current and having a will helps ensure that your intentions will be honored after you pass away. Wills don't change beneficiary designations, so doing both is important.

Wills outline who inherits property, manages your estate, and acts as guardian for children. Without a will, others make these decisions, and their decisions may not match your preferences.

Hartford's free online will tool makes creating a simple will from any device easy.

Visit

<https://www.tucsonaz.gov/insurance/life-insurance> to get started.

Email: benefitsquestions@tucsonaz.gov or phone: 520-791-4597

CTRA NEWSLETTER EDITOR POSITION OPEN

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED AND WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER, YOUR SERVICES ARE NEEDED.

PLEASE CONTACT MARY G. PARKER, AT 520-403-0053.

NO CTRA NEWSLETTER FOR JULY AND AUGUST 2020

2020 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Mary G. Parker, President (520)-403-0053)

Karol Aragonez Vice-President (520)-270-8974

Claudia Buford, Treasurer (520)-909-5992)

Marilyn Kaltoff, Secretary (520)-331-4096

Lois Rios, Outreach Chair (520)-326-3021)

Kris Liberty, Membership Chair (520)-419-5983)

Jim Wysocki, TSRS Retiree Representative. (520)-749-9326)

John O'Hare, TSRS Liaison, (520)-250-6003)

Mary G. Parker, Newsletter Editor (520)-403-0053) (Temporary)

Agatha Anaya, Past-President (520)-889-3690)